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## JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



30 April 2015

### (U//~~FOUO~~) "Muhammad Art Exhibit & Contest" in Texas on 3 May Likely to Prompt Violent Extremist Reaction Abroad; Violence Less Likely at Home

(U) Scope

(U//~~FOUO~~) This *Joint Intelligence Bulletin (JIB)* is intended to provide information on the potential for the "Muhammad Art Exhibit & Contest" on 3 May 2015 in Garland, Texas to result in threats of violent extremist attack plotting against the event, its participants, or in the Homeland more generally. This *JIB* is intended to support the activities of FBI and DHS to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism and law enforcement officials, first responders, and private sector security partners in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States.

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**(U) Overview**

(U//~~FOUO~~) On 3 May 2015 the "American Freedom Defense Initiative<sup>USPER</sup>" (AFDI) is sponsoring in Garland, Texas a "Muhammad Art Exhibit & Contest," for the stated purpose of "defend[ing] free speech and not give[ing] in to violent intimidation." The FBI and DHS assess this motivation refers to deadly violent extremist attacks over recent months on institutions or events perceived as defaming the Islamic prophet, Muhammad. Although there is no specific, credible intelligence concerning threats to the event thus far, we assess that this event carries the risk of being targeted by violent extremists because past events involving the alleged defamation of Islam and the prophet, Muhammad, have resulted in threats or overt acts of violence overseas, to include threats against both artists and publishers.

- » (U//~~FOUO~~) In January 2015, an attack likely approved by al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) killed 12 persons at the offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, a satirical magazine in Paris, France that has several times shown depictions of the prophet, Muhammad.
- » (U//~~FOUO~~) In February 2015, a violent extremist conducted a small arms attack against a free speech forum being held at a café in Copenhagen, Denmark, which featured [REDACTED] who has drawn cartoons of the prophet, Muhammad.

b6 per FBI  
b7C per FBI

**(U) Event Background**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The AFDI website reports more than 350 contest entries were received by the 4 April 2015 deadline from around the world. Due to the large response, the organizers called for voting to decide on the recipient of a \$2,500 People's Choice Award, in addition to the \$10,000 grand prize winner who will be selected by a panel of judges. Winners of the People's Choice Award and the grand prize will be announced publicly at the 3 May 2015 event. Overall, contest artwork, done in a variety of media, is similar in tone to previously published cartoons, such as those published by *Charlie Hebdo* and [REDACTED]

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b7C per FBI

(U//~~FOUO~~) The contest website displays the artwork; although entrants must provide actual names to enter the contest, they may choose whether their full names will be displayed on the Web site. Per contest rules, AFDI also reserves the right to further publish the names and likenesses of artists for publicity purposes.

**(U//~~FOUO~~) Contest Could Lead to Near and Long Term Threats from a Variety of Extremists**

(U//~~FOUO~~) Public figures, such as [REDACTED] and the organizers of the event likely understand that their public positions may make them a desirable target for violent extremists, and AQAP has specifically called for the killing of [REDACTED] in the past. Nonetheless, FBI and DHS assess that some contest participants who submitted depictions of the prophet, Muhammad, may be unaware of potential threats to their lives by violent Islamist extremists, or that previous calls for such drawings have resulted in threats against both artists and publishers. Contact information for the artists can likely easily be researched on the Internet and distributed to violent extremists to encourage attacks against these artists.

b6 per FBI  
b7C per FBI

**(U) Report Suspicious Activity**

**(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement.** Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

**(U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response**

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**(U)** For comments or questions related to the content or dissemination of this document, please contact **b7E per FBI, per DHS**  
[redacted] by e-mail at [redacted] or the [redacted] by e-mail at [redacted]

**(U) Tracked by:** [redacted]

**b7E per DHS**

(U//~~FOUO~~) We assess that ongoing, comprehensive collection efforts on terrorist threats and the local security posture increase the likelihood of detecting and identifying US-based HVEs and other US-based violent extremists who may be targeting this event and its participants. We nevertheless urge vigilance by security officials for indications of preoperational activity claiming linkage to the event or threatening participants, or American Muslims and their places of worship.

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b7E per FBI, per DHS

- » (U//~~FOUO~~) Online supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and [redacted] have posted links to the contest announcement on Twitter, urging retaliation, including unspecified lone offender attacks.\*

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b7C per FBI

- » (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

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b7C per FBI, per DHS  
b7E per FBI  
b7F per DHS

- » (U//~~FOUO~~) There is no identified domestic violent extremist threat involving the event at this time.

#### (U) Outlook

(U//~~FOUO~~) Although past events involving the alleged defamation of Islam and the prophet, Muhammad, have resulted in threats or overt acts of violence overseas, we have not yet seen such violence in the United States. [redacted]

b5 per FBI  
b7E per FBI, per DHS

\* (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

† (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

‡ (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

b5 per FBI  
b7A per DHS